

I am not a media lobbyist. But I do consider it my responsibility as a voter to pay attention to the news and keep aware of the issues. An independent media is the cornerstone of democracy. Corporate media, though equipped with impressive resources, have not provided and will not provide the kind of coverage I need to be a truly informed voter.

As an example, we have only to look at U.S. corporate media coverage of the recent war in comparison with U.S. independent coverage and international coverage: Independent and international journalists investigated claims of U.S. military errors and/or wrongdoing. Corporate journalists, despite their greater access to technological and economic resources that could assist investigative journalism, simply reported the Pentagon's official denials. These are facts.

Independent journalists followed up on stories; corporate journalists didn't.

A free and independent media is vital to the checks and balances required to make democracies work. Power cannot be concentrated in the hands of a few. Technological and economic resources do not guarantee honest and accurate reporting. We, the American people, own the airwaves. The FCC manages them for us -- not to benefit corporations. As an agency within the United States government, the FCC must support democracy, and the rights and liberties of the American people. Corporate consolidation of the media harms democracy, and threatens our rights and liberties. The FCC must uphold media ownership rules that prevent monopolization.